

From: [Anne Sellers](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Public comment about the Salem Payroll Tax
Date: Sunday, July 2, 2023 2:25:30 PM

Hello.

I support the introduction of a Payroll Tax for Salem workers. Our city has grown and needs additional services including Fire, Police, and services to homeless people in the Salem area.

Great work is being done to support homeless people through the Navigation Center and through the Micro shelter sites around the city. It is imperative that we build on these efforts and add to them. Additional mental health services are desperately needed, and we need City, State and Federal support and funding to address the shortfall.

Thank you.

Anne Sellers
Salem OR 97305
employee in the city of Salem

From: [Brandon Fahlman](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Public comment for July 10th payroll tax public hearing
Date: Friday, June 30, 2023 11:53:24 AM

Hello,

I currently own and operate a business within Salem. I oppose this increased tax.

--

Brandon Fahlman

Principal Broker / Realtor ®

Kithkin Real Estate LLC

■ [503-400-7730](tel:5034007730) | [503-930-2786](tel:5039302786)

■ brandon@kithkinre.com

■ www.kithkinrealestate.com

■ 295 Patterson St NW, Salem, OR 97304

From: [Dan Farrington](#)
To: [citycouncil](#); [Chris Hoy](#); [Virginia Stapleton](#); [Linda Nishioka](#); [Trevor Phillips](#); [Deanna Gwyn](#); [Jose Gonzalez](#); [Julie Hoy](#); [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [Micki Varney](#); [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: danfarrington@comcast.net
Subject: Proposed Payroll Tax- Vote NO!
Date: Saturday, July 1, 2023 9:13:47 AM

Please vote NO on the Employee paid Payroll Tax, you can find other ways to pay for the services that you have listed! You are already taking money from the employee for the **Paid Leave Tax** and now the employee paid **Payroll Tax**. Employers are struggling to find good workers for their small businesses and now you want to start taxing the employees that they work so hard to hire. You are going to see our workforce disappear in Salem. Those who have the financial resources will survive but the gap between the wealthy and the poor will grow wider.

Reminder- we are trying to get rid of homelessness, not enable it! Everyone has basic needs to belong and to contribute. By providing tiny houses and services but not expecting them to contribute in return creates dependency with no buy in and ends up increasing homelessness. People are coming to Salem from all over the country because we choose to enable them- they expect to get something for nothing, which sounds good on the surface but has no lasting quality. When you decide to start changing the way they think, you might find a solution. It's not only about getting them clean and sober, it's about the next steps of changing their thought process and motivations. I mentor at the UGM of Salem, I see it every day I'm there. It is disrespectful not to expect contribution from people who are getting services. It means that you don't believe in them. Find a way for the homeless to contribute and you'll clear up most of the problem.

You get the behavior that you reward and Salem continues to punish the productive and reward the idle. You are running us into the ground!

Vote no on the Employee- Paid Payroll Tax to save Salem.

Working and caring for Salem and our Community,

Dan Farrington
2615 Sunrise Ave. S
Salem, OR 97302
503-930-5974

From: [Derek Sadowski](#)
To: [Chris Hoy](#); [citycouncil](#); [Virginia Stapleton](#); [Linda Nishioka](#); [Trevor Phillips](#); [Deanna Gwyn](#); [Jose Gonzalez](#); [Julie Hoy](#); [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [Micki Varney](#)
Cc: [Ty Moffett](#); [Nicholas Rusow](#); [Samantha Cox](#); [Tracy Stewart](#)
Subject: City of Salem Payroll Tax - UNCONSTITUTIONAL - Opposed
Date: Monday, June 26, 2023 5:32:53 PM

Dear City Council,

I regret I will be unable to attend the City Council meeting tonight to give public testimony regarding a proposed City of Salem payroll tax for all workers working inside the City of Salem and am offering written testimony instead.

I own AG Sadowski Company located at 1605 Liberty Street SE here in Salem. I oppose this new tax. Because the people who will be forced to pay this tax are not being allowed to vote on this tax prior to its implementation, the tax is unconstitutional. In addition, it is an unwanted tax, not only unwanted by myself, but also all employees of my company.

By funding more shelters for active addicts currently living on the streets of Salem, you are not helping them or the community. You are further enabling their self-destructive behavior and increasing not only crime in our community but the likelihood of the active addict's early demise via accident, violence, and overdose.

I am strongly opposed to this tax.

Derek A. Sadowski, President
A.G. Sadowski Company
1605 Liberty Street SE
Salem, OR 97302
(503) 362-2711 (P)
(503) 931-5456 (C)



From: James.Kniffin@morganstanley.com
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [lena@saalemchamber.org](mailto:lens@saalemchamber.org); jdknif@mac.com
Subject: City of Salem Employee Payroll Tax Proposal
Date: Friday, June 30, 2023 10:33:15 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to register my absolute opposition to this proposal by the City of Salem City Council. This tax, if passed, would amount to an additional \$5500 remittance to the City of Salem for myself based on my 2022 income. This council's belief that they are able to allocate these resources better than myself and the other income earners in the City of Salem is insidious. Oregon, and now Salem, in my opinion, is quickly becoming unlivable and these progressive policies need to be overturned before folks like my wife and I are driven out of the area due to increased taxing and quality of living issues. This is not a money issue – there are plenty of resources – it's a proper allocation of those resources along with the aberrant decisions made this and previous City Council members. These decisions have greatly detracted from the overall livability of our once idyllic community. At the very minimum, this payroll tax should be referred to a vote of the electorate just as residents were entrusted with their vote on the City of Salem's \$300m infrastructure bond.

Sincerely,

Jim Kniffin
503-931-8139

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From: [James Owens](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Public Comment on Proposed Payroll Tax Increase
Date: Monday, June 26, 2023 10:03:14 PM

Good evening,

My name is James Owens, and I'm a resident of the city of Salem. I recently learned that the Salem City Council is discussing plans to implement a new payroll tax--the "Safe Salem" tax--beginning as early as July 2024 to address a shortfall in the city's budget. I am submitting my comment, respectfully, in opposition of this proposal.

It is my belief that, barring approval of any new tax measures by democratic vote of the city population, any shortfalls in the budget should be made up through cuts either to proposed services or existing services, at least until new revenue can be identified/approved by Salem residents. I understand this is not always feasible, especially with deadlines looming, vital services at stake, and deficits arising unexpectedly. However, in this instance, I do not believe the Council's decision to (potentially) increase taxes is healthy or acceptable without an opportunity for public input.

My issue also stems from the proposed amount--to my understanding, a 0.814% increase. While I recognize this is simply the mathematical reality of what it will take to close the gap, the amount feels prohibitive given the current economic realities faced by Salem residents due to inflation (including corporation-driven profiteering under the guise of inflation). Perhaps there is some way to meet in the middle--a more modest tax raise, paired with a slight slashing of the budget across the board or in key areas. Also, in the interest of fairness, despite not making minimum wage myself, I greatly appreciate the Council's decision to exempt minimum wage earners from the proposed payroll tax increase.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope the Council will consider opening discussion of the proposal to public hearing.

Regards,
James Owens
1304 Mulligan Ct. SE
Salem, OR 97306

From: [Nathaniel Combs](#)
To: [citycouncil](#); [Chris Hoy](#)
Subject: Payroll Tax
Date: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 7:39:11 PM

Salem City Counselors & Mayor Hoy,

I would like to include myself in the many voices who have already spoken in opposition to this tax. I too don't have much to add that hasn't already been said but I am disappointed in some statements that have been made about property tax, property tax growth, and budgeting. If the money isn't there, things need to be cut. I would like to offer my expertise in property tax each year and help the City of Salem staff predict whether there is growth or decline and at what percent for upcoming budget seasons, many other districts in Marion County currently do this.

I urge you to listen to the citizens you serve and do right by them. Please put this tax to a vote on the upcoming November ballot to make this a fair process for all do not wait until 2031.

Nate Combs


West Salem Resident

From: [Renaë Bendix](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: no employee-paid payroll tax
Date: Tuesday, July 4, 2023 3:02:13 PM

To the Mayor and City Council of Salem,
Putting additional tax burden on the backs of employees in Salem is a bad idea. Many employers in the area are already having a hard time finding and keeping employees. Wouldn't this be just another nail in the coffin of many businesses, especially the small businesses in our city? Common sense says this is a bad idea. Does this mean that the Mayor and Council have no common sense? Hmmmm...

Renaë Bendix
Broker Licensed in the State of Oregon
HomeSmart Realty Group


Initial Agency Disclosure Pamphlet: <https://www.oregon.gov/rea/licensing/Documents/Initial-Agency-Disclosure-Pamphlet.pdf>





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From: [Rebekah Bonnesen](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Payroll tax
Date: Wednesday, June 28, 2023 12:31:02 PM

I work in Salem, but don't live in Salem. Therefore, I didn't vote for any of the current council, won't be voting for the next round, and won't be eligible to vote in 2031 should this be sent out to voters. I also have no say in how the money is spent. In that case, it seems wrong that you can decide to help yourself to a chunk of my paycheck.

It's quite a chunk you want, too, and I'm not convinced the services the city wants to support of that much value to commuters. They aren't worthless. I'm sure we all appreciate help in emergency situations, and it would be great to see more routine traffic policing done in order to create safer roads that produce fewer emergencies, but the bulk of the proposed spending undoubtedly provides greater benefit to the residents.

And, again, those of us who aren't have very little say in the matter.

From: [howelltalk](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Payroll tax for houseless programs
Date: Monday, July 3, 2023 6:24:21 PM

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the payroll tax proposal for houseless programs. The impact of this proposal will have a long-term impact on current and future businesses especially trying to attract a good workforce. The goals of the program are correct. However, other options should be examined such as foundation grants, statewide resources (federal and state), and private donations (both corporate, personal, and charitable). Please do not be too hasty in this decision making process. Thank you, Richard Howell (Salem, Oregon)

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

From: [Steve Howell](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Public comment for July 10th payroll tax public hearing
Date: Thursday, June 29, 2023 3:16:38 PM

NO NEW TAXES. Cut services if the City needs to or better manage what you already have.... Don't turn the City of Salem into Portland or Multnomah County and tax everything under the sun. If we do, you will see the eventual exit of businesses and people...

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Susan Magill](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: RE: Article in salemreporter.com
Date: Monday, June 26, 2023 5:03:51 PM

Good Afternoon,

After reading an article in the Salem Reporter regarding additional taxation for working in the City of Salem at approx \$1.39 per employee per day, I have the following comments, as the article invited commentary to this email address.

1. Voter approval? It would seem that would be appropriate to have this voted on.
2. I totally agree with comments of CEO Tom Hoffer, Salem Chamber of Commerce from that article:

"The small business community requests that local social service initiatives be financially reprioritized and funded only AFTER public safety and infrastructure have adequate funding in the city's active budgeting" Hoffert said in an email.

3. Since Kate Brown removed a lot of mental health facilities and care, and a number of homeless people are actually in need of mental health care and instead are on the streets, it seems like fiduciary responsibility of where these dollars are attributed to need would be a better solution than putting this at risk portion of society on the streets. To me, this added to the problem, and did not offer a good solution. Is this funding in addition to the dollars ALREADY used to house homeless people in hotels?

These are some thoughts regarding this decision, and I would love to see this go to the voters.

This comment is for the public record.

Thank you,
Susan Magill
(regarding: taxation for working in Salem)

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of stevenkimmie@gmail.com
To: citycouncil
Subject: Contact City Council
Date: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 1:40:27 PM
Attachments: [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	STEVEN M MCNAUGHT
Your Email	stevenkimmie@gmail.com
Your Phone	5035755883
Street	300 SW OREGON TRAIL DR
City	DALLAS
State	OR
Zip	97338
Message	I would like to oppose the new city payroll tax that the city is going to be having a hearing on, on July 10th. As an employee who works in the city, I pay my fair share of taxes to the city, state and federal government. I do all my shopping in the city of Salem and contribute to the economy. By implementing a new tax, will put a strain on the economy as well as my self and family.

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 6/27/2023.